



Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2021-2024

The format for reports on the implementation of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds (AEWA) for the period 2021-2024 was approved by the 8th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP8, 26-30 September 2022, Budapest, Hungary) through Resolution 8.3 and modified by the Standing Committee at its 23rd and 24th meetings (June 2023 and July 2024, respectively) as mandated by the MOP. This format has been compiled following the AEWA Annex 3 (Action Plan), the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027 and resolutions of the MOP.

In accordance with article V(c) of the Agreement on the Conservation of African-Eurasian Migratory Waterbirds, each Party shall prepare to each ordinary session of the MOP a National Report on its implementation of the Agreement and submit that report to the Agreement Secretariat. Through Resolution 8.3 the deadline for submission of national reports to the 9th Session of the Meeting of the Parties (MOP9) was set at 180 days before the opening of the meeting. MOP9 is scheduled to take place on 10-14 November 2025; therefore, the deadline for submission of National Reports is **13 May 2025**.

As per Resolution 7.1 of the MOP, Chapter 3 of the National Report Format on the numbers and trends of native and non-native species of waterbirds was developed as a stand-alone online reporting module, which is due for submission to every second MOP session. The next submission of this module is scheduled for delivery to MOP10 and will take place in 2026-2027 through a stand-alone reporting process. Therefore, the current Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2021-2024 does not contain Chapter 3.

As per the decision of the 23rd meeting of the Standing Committee (26-27 June 2023), reporting of waterbird harvest data for the period 2019-2023 was undertaken as a stand-alone module of the national report and administered through a separate reporting process in the course of 2024.

The AEWA National Reports 2021-2024 were compiled and submitted through the AEWA Online National Reporting System, which is part of the broader CMS Family Online Reporting System. The CMS Family Online Reporting System was developed by the UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC) in close collaboration with and under the guidance of the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat.

1. General Information

Name of reporting Contracting Party

>>> Slovak Republic

Date of entry into force of AEWA in the Contracting Party

>>> 01.07.2001

List any reservations that the Contracting Party has made (if any) in respect of any population(s) listed in Table 1 of Annex 3 or any specific provision of the AEWA Action Plan - either upon deposition of its instruments of accession (per AEWA, Article XV) or subsequent to any amendment of Table 1 or the AEWA Action Plan, as adopted by a session of the Agreement's Meeting of the Parties (per AEWA, Article X.6).

EU member states should list also all reservations entered by the European Commission on behalf of the European Union.

>>> Upon deposition of its instruments of accession (23 April 2001) the Slovak Republic made reservation concerning Article 4.1.4 of the Action Plan - regulation of use of toxic shots containing lead during hunting in wetlands.

Since 1 January 2015 the use of led shots is banned in Slovakia according to the Act on Hunting (No. 274/2009, as amended, § 65, par. 36), as well as the Regulation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 (as amended) to the Act on nature and landscape protection (§ 9 on prohibited methods and means of capture and killing of protected animals, where using of lead ammunition during hunt of water birds in wetlands is prohibited).

2. Institutional Information

Please update information on the National AEWA Administrative Authority, the National Focal Points, the Designated National Respondent and the other contributors to this report.

Designated National AEWA Administrative Authority

Full name of the institution

>>> Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic, Directorate for Nature and Landscape Protection

Name and title of the head of institution

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Designated National Focal Point (NFP) for AEWA matters

Name and title of the NFP

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Designated National Focal Point for AEWA Technical Committee (TC NFP) matters

Name and title of the TC NFP

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Designated National Focal Point for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA NFP) matters

Name and title of the CEPA NFP

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Designated National Respondent (DNR) in charge of the compilation and submission of the AEWA National Report 2021-2024

Please select from the list below as appropriate.

The National Focal Point for AEWA Technical Committee (TC NFP) matters has been designated as the National Respondent

Other contributors to the AEWA National Report 2021 - 2024

Please list the names and affiliations (institution, organisation) of the other contributors to this report. For Contracting Parties in which nature conservation is not an exclusive competence of national/federal government, Designated National Respondents are encouraged to seek input from other relevant levels of government.

>>> Dr. Ján Kadlečík, State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic

Pressures and Responses

4. Species Conservation

4.1 Legal Measures

1. Following MOP8, was a review undertaken in your country of the relevant domestic legislation against the provisions of the latest version of the Agreement text and its annexes, including Table 1 in Annex III, taking into account all amendments adopted by MOP8? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Actions 1.1 (a), 1.1 (b), 2.2(a) and 2.2(b))

No

2. Was your country's national legislation reviewed following the Guidance on Measures in National Legislation for Different Populations of the Same Species, Particularly with Respect to Hunting and Trade (Resolution 6.7)?

See Appendix 1 / Appendix 2 / Appendix 3

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Did this require adjusting your national legislation?

No

3. Please confirm the protection status under your country's national legislation of each population listed in the Excel file linked below. This list contains all the AEWA Table 1, Column A populations that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).

Guidance on responding to this question:

1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name.

(**Notice:** before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Slovakia_Q3_AEWA_NR_2021-2024_PopColA.xlsx](#) - Slovakia_Q3_AEWA NR 2021-2024_PopColA.xlsx

4. Please confirm for each population, listed in the Excel file linked below, whether there is an open hunting season (birds and/or eggs) in your country. This list contains all the AEWA Table 1, Column A, category 2 or 3 with an asterisk or category 4 that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).

Guidance: Open hunting season in the context of this inquiry means that the waterbird population is allowed to be hunted for a certain period in the year in accordance with the respective domestic legislation of the country. Some populations, even if huntable according to the legislation, in certain circumstances may be subject to a year-round closed season for management reasons.

Guidance on responding to this question:

1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name.

(**Notice:** before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Slovakia_Q4_AEWA_NR_2021-2024_PopColA-Cat2_3_4.xlsx](#) - Slovakia_Q4_AEWA NR 2021-2024_PopColA-Cat2,3,4.xlsx

5. Please confirm for each population, listed in the Excel file linked below, whether taking is regulated in your country. This list contains all the AEWA Table 1, Column B populations that are regularly occurring in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1).

Guidance on responding to this question:

1- Please click here and download the Excel file starting with your country's name.

(**Notice:** before clicking on this hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.)

2- Fill in the Excel template comprehensively;

3- Upload the completed Excel file as an attachment here. For uploading please click on the little blue icon below containing a paper clip.

I confirm that I have downloaded the Excel file with my country's name, filled it in as necessary and uploaded the completed file as an attachment to this question.

You have attached the following documents to this answer.

[Slovakia_Q5_AEWA_NR_2021-2024_PopColB.xlsx](#) - Slovakia_Q5_AEWA NR 2021-2024_PopColB.xlsx

6. Please indicate which modes of taking are prohibited in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b); AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1)

One or more modes of taking have been prohibited

Please provide details to each mode of taking in the list below:

Snares

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Limes

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Hooks

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Live birds which are blind or mutilated used as decoys

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Tape recorders and other electronic devices

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Electrocuting devices

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Artificial light sources

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Mirrors and other dazzling devices

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Devices for illuminating targets

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Sighting devices for night shooting comprising an electronic image magnifier or image converter

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Explosives

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Nets

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Traps

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Poison

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Poisoned or anaesthetic baits

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Semi-automatic or automatic weapons with a magazine capable of holding more than two rounds of ammunition

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Hunting from aircraft, motor vehicles, or boats driven at a speed exceeding 5 km p/h (18 km p/h on the open sea)

Yes, fully

Please indicate the legislation under which the mode of taking is prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

Other non-selective modes of taking

Yes, fully

Please specify which other non-selective modes of taking have been prohibited

>>> Act No. 543/2002 Coll. on Nature and Landscape Protection and Act No. 274/2009 Coll. on hunting

7. Has your country granted exemptions from any of the above prohibitions in order to accommodate livelihoods uses? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.1.2(b); AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 1.1)

Not Relevant

8. Has a review of enforcement of and compliance with the domestic legislation relevant for AEWA implementation, [in particular the legislation which caters for the obligations under paragraphs 2.1 and 4.1 of the AEWA Action Plan], been undertaken in your country after MOP8? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Actions 1.1(c) and 2.2(c))

No

Was a review undertaken before MOP8?

Yes

What is the assessed level of enforcement and compliance?

Medium (more compliance than non-compliance)

Have any measures been put in place to ensure strengthened enforcement and compliance?

No

9. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on National Legislation for the Protection of Species of Migratory Waterbirds and their Habitats?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> The amendments to the Decree of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 170/2021 to the Act No. 543/2002 (as amended) were developed following international obligations.

4.2. Species Action and Management Plans

10. Please report on the progress of turning the International Single Species Action and Management Plans (ISSAP and ISSMP), as well as International Multi-species Action Plans (IMSAP), listed below, into National Action or Management Plans. If no action or management plan is listed below, this is because your country is not considered to be a Principal Range State for any species currently covered by an AEWA plan. In such a case, please proceed to the next question. (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.2; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.2 (d))

Please report on all listed ISSAP, ISSMP and IMSAP

**Ferruginous Duck / *Aythya nyroca*
National Plan for Ferruginous Duck / *Aythya nyroca***

NP in place and being implemented

When was the plan approved and published? Please provide a web link or attach a file, if available. Please provide contact details for any person or organisation coordinating its implementation. Please list any activities and/or achievements over the past triennium.

>>> Approved on 21 August 2024 by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/druhova-ochrana-prirody/programy-zachrany/program_zachrany_buciak_chochlacka-roky-2024-2028.pdf
Implementation is coordinated by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC SR) in cooperation with the Slovak Ornithological Society / BirdLife Slovakia (SOS/BirdLife Slovakia).
Restoration of habitats in progress within LIFE projects implemented by SOS/BirdLife Slovakia and SNC SR in different parts of the country.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Advanced implementation - most of the actions are underway as per the time schedule of the plan

Great Snipe / Gallinago media **National Plan for Great Snipe / Gallinago media**

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> Non-breeding, rare species in Slovakia, not identified as a priority for NP, however actions are included in the annual work plan of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and in relevant projects.

Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa **National Plan for Black-tailed Godwit / Limosa limosa**

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> Rare species in Slovakia, non-breeding during several decades. The development, approval and implementation of the National Plan, based on the international Action Plans for migratory species was included among the priority measures of the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 - 2027.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Management and restoration measures implemented in the key sites and potential habitats in Senne and Medzibodrožie SPAs.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Moderate implementation - some of the actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

Eurasian Spoonbill / Platalea leucorodia **National Plan for Eurasian Spoonbill / Platalea leucorodia**

No NP, but actions implemented

Please explain the reasons for having no NP in place

>>> As there is only a small population of the species in Slovakia in two main breeding sites, measures for spoonbill have been included in the management plans for these two protected areas (Special Protection Areas, Ramsar Site and nature reserve). The development, approval and implementation of the National Plan, based on the international Action Plans for migratory species was included among the priority measures of the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 - 2027.

Please provide a description of the actions implemented

>>> Conservation and management of breeding sites, restoration of habitats.

Please rate the degree of current implementation of the plan taking into account the time schedule of the ISSAP

Moderate implementation - some of the actions are underway as per the time schedule of the ISSAP

11. Has your country provided assistance for the coordination and implementation of

International Species Action or Management Plans through funding of AEWA International Species Working and Expert Groups? (Resolution 7.5)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funds and capacities available.

12. Has your country provided financial or in-kind assistance for the development of new International Species Action or Management Plans? (Resolution 7.5)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funds and capacities available.

13. Has your country been involved in the development and/or implementation of any flyway-scale projects to implement Single or Multi-Species Action Plans? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.2(f))

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Lack of funds and capacities available.

14. Has a review and prioritization been undertaken in your country of the resources needed to develop national action plans in response to ISSAPs, implement those plans and coordinate their implementation? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.2(g))

Yes

When was this review and prioritization completed?

>>> January 2021 - within the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 - 2027.

Please attach the review and prioritization or provide a weblink to it. If not available, please summarise the main points.

>>> Funding necessary for development/update, approval and implementation of National Plans for migratory species (including waterbirds - Botaurus stellaris, Crex crex, Aythya nyroca, Platalea leucorodia, Limosa limosa) for 2021-2027 was estimated to 1,5 mil. eur.

https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/paf2020/vlastny-material_paf.pdf

Has a corresponding national resource mobilization plan been established?

Yes

Please attach the resource mobilization plan or provide a weblink to it. If not available, please summarise the main points.

>>> https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/paf2020/vlastny-material_paf.pdf

15. Does your country have in place or is your country developing a National Single Species Action Plan for any species/population for which an AEWA ISSAP has not been developed? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.2.2)

Yes

Please provide information on each species for which relevant action has been undertaken

Slovakia

Eurasian Bittern / Botaurus stellaris

National Single Species Action Plan for Eurasian Bittern / Botaurus stellaris

NSSAP in place and being implemented

Please provide details

>>> Approved on 21 August 2024 by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic
https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/druhova-ochrana-prirody/programy-zachrany/program_zachrany_buciak_chochlacka-roky-2024-2028.pdf

Implementation is coordinated by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC SR) in cooperation with the Slovak Ornithological Society / BirdLife Slovakia (SOS/BirdLife Slovakia). Restoration of habitats in progress within LIFE projects implemented by SOS/BirdLife Slovakia and SNC SR in different parts of the country.

16. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines for the preparation of National Single Species Action Plans for migratory waterbirds?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing **the Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What has been used instead as a basis for the preparation of NSSAPs?
>>> National guidelines were adopted according to national law, with similar structure and contents as AEWA Guidelines.

4.3 Emergency Measures

18. Please report on any emergency situation that has occurred in your country over the past triennium and has threatened waterbirds. (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.3)

Please indicate whether an emergency situation threatening waterbirds, such as botulism, chemical pollution, earthquake, extreme weather, fire, harmful algal bloom, infectious disease, introduction of alien species, lead poisoning, nuclear accident, oil spill, predation, volcanic activity, war or other emergency (please specify), has occurred in the country over the past triennium.

No emergency situation has occurred

19. Are there any other emergency response measures, different from the ones applied in response to the emergency situations reported above, that were developed and are in place in your country so that they can be used in future in emergency cases?

No

20. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on identifying and tackling emergency situations for migratory waterbirds?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Not applicable

4.4 Re-establishments

21. Is your country maintaining a national register of re-establishment projects occurring or planned to occur wholly or partly within your country? (Resolution 4.4)

No

22. Is there a regulatory framework for re-establishments of species, including waterbirds, in your country (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.4)?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> General provisions of the Decree of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 24/2003 (as amended) to the nature conservation act. Provisions are included also in the Act No. 274/2009 on hunting (as amended). Re-establishment activities are conditioned by approval by the Ministry of Environment (and if it is a game species also the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development).

23. Has your country considered, developed or implemented re-establishment projects for any species/population listed on AEWA Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.4)

No

24. Has your country used the AEWA conservation Guidelines on the translocation of waterbirds for conservation purposes?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Not applicable

4.5 Introductions

25. Does your country have legislation in place, which prohibits the introduction into the environment of non-native species of animals and plants which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.1)

Yes, and being enforced

Please provide the following details: title of legislation, year of adoption, institution that adopted it, institution that enforces it. Please clarify whether legislation applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

>>> Act No. 150/2019 Coll. on prevention, management and eradication of invasive alien species (National Act on IAS), which implements EU Regulation no. 1143/2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species into national legislation, was adopted by the Parliament in 2019. Enforced by the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic. Inventory of IAS covers inventory of species listed both in the List of IAS of Union concern (Commission implementing regulation (EU) No. 2016/1141, No. 1267/2017 and No. 2019/1262) and in the List of IAS of Slovak concern (National list of IAS) published in the Regulation of the Slovak Government No. 449/2019, adopted in 2019. IAS that currently or potentially impact the ecological character of wetlands are included in these Lists. Conditions and ways of the removal of IAS are specified in the Decree of the Ministry of Environment of SR No. 450/2019, adopted in 2019.

Introduction of non-native game species (and cross-breeding) is prohibited also by the Act No. 274/2009 on hunting (as amended), adopted by the Slovak Government and enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Slovak Republic. Both acts apply to the entire country.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Action plan to address the issue of pathways of unintentional introduction and unintentional spread of invasive alien species into the territory of the Slovak Republic and into the EU territory through the territory of the Slovak Republic was adopted by the Slovak Government on 22 June 2022.

26. Does your country impose legislative requirements on zoos, private collections, etc. in order to avoid the accidental escape of captive animals belonging to non-native species which may be detrimental to migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.2)

Yes, and being enforced

Please provide the following details: title of the document, year of adoption, institution that adopted it, institution that enforces it. Please clarify whether legislation applies to/is consistent throughout the entire country or only to particular states/provinces.

>>> Act No. 39/2007 on veterinary care, adopted in 2007 by the Government of the Slovak Republic, enforced by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and the State Veterinary Authority; According to this Act, § 6 the owner or keeper of an animal is obliged to take measures to prevent escape of the animal, its not planned or unwanted reproduction.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Only general requirements established in veterinary regulation.

27. Has your country considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate non-native species of waterbird so as to prevent negative impacts on indigenous species? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 2.5.3)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Only individual cases of occurrence of non-native species are handled. No one non-native waterbird species occurs in the wild in the populations with required eradication, only occasionally individuals recorded.

28. Has your country considered, developed or implemented programmes to control or eradicate other non-native species (in particular aquatic weeds and terrestrial predators) so as to prevent negative impacts on migratory waterbirds? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraphs 2.5.3 and 4.3.10 and Resolution 5.15)

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> No such measures needed so far. Control or eradication of non-native carnivore mammals is included in some (cross-border) projects.

29. Has your country used the AEWA Guidelines on avoidance of introductions of non-native

waterbird species?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What was used instead as a basis for dealing with the issue?

>>> Provisions of the EU Regulation on Invasive Alien Species (Regulation (EU) No 1143/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 on the prevention and management of the introduction and spread of invasive alien species) have been included in the new act and its decree these include principles and guidelines addressing this issue, including AEWA Guidelines.

4.6 Seabirds

The country has maritime territories and the AEWA seabird conservation priorities are relevant for the country:

No

Pressures and Responses

5. Habitat Conservation

5.1 Habitat Inventories

40. Has your country identified the network of all sites of international and national importance for the migratory waterbird species/populations listed on Table 1? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 3.1.2)

Yes

Please provide full reference, e.g. title, year, authors, etc. or a web link

>>> Special Protection Areas designated in 2003 and 2010; the Critical Site Network was established in 2011; Important Bird Areas (updated in 1992, 2000, 2004); Ramsar sites network (www.ramsar.org) designated in 1990-2007; there is a big overlap between these types of sites of international importance.

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Ramsar Sites in Slovakia: <https://www.minzp.sk/ochrana-prirody/medzinarodne-dohovory/uzemia-medzinarodneho-vyznamu/>; https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/mokrade/ramarske-lokalita-sr_23-10-2019.jpg

Special Areas of Conservation dependent on water: https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/mokrade/zoznam_uev_zavislych-vode_23-10-2019.pdf; https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/mokrade/uzemia-europskeho-vyznamu-zavislych-vode_23-10-2019.jpg

Special Protection Areas dependent on water: https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/mokrade/zoznam-chvu_zavislych-vode_23-10-2019.pdf; https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/mokrade/chrane-vtacie-uzemia-zavislych-vode_23-10-2019.jpg

Other water-dependent protected areas in Slovakia: https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/mokrade/mchu_zoznam.pdf; https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/mokrade/zoznam-maloplosnych-chronenych-uzemi-sr_23-10-2019.jpg

41. If your country has identified or is currently identifying the networks of sites of international and national importance, were the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on the preparation of site inventories for migratory waterbirds used?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What has been used instead as a basis for the inventory?

>>> Sites were identified according to criteria of the EU Birds Directive (Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 November 2009 on the conservation of wild birds), the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Important Bird Areas, Critical Site Network and national guidelines reflecting the AEWA Conservation Guidelines.

42. Has your country reviewed and confirmed to the AEWA Secretariat its inventory of the known nationally and internationally important sites through the process developed by the Technical Committee and launched by the Secretariat in August 2020? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.1(a))

YES, it was accepted and concluded

5.2. Conservation of Areas and Habitats

43. Has your country assessed the future implications of climate change for protected areas and other sites important for waterbirds (i.e. resilience of sites to climate change)? (Resolution 5.13)

For one or more single sites

No

Please explain the reasons

>>> Research of implications of climate change for protected areas and other sites is included among priorities of the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 - 2027.

For the national protected area network

No

Please explain the reasons.

>>> Research of implications of climate change for protected areas and other sites is included among priorities of the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 – 2027.

44. Which sites that were identified as important, either internationally or nationally, for Table 1 migratory waterbird species/populations have been designated as protected areas under the national legislation and have management plans that are being implemented, including with the aim to increase resilience to the effects of climate change? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 3.2.1, AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.3)

Please report separately on internationally important sites, nationally important sites and buffer zones.

Reporting on designation and management of internationally important sites

All sites of international importance

(sites recognized as having international importance for migratory waterbirds following criteria of, for instance, the AEWA Critical Site Network, the Ramsar Convention, the EU Birds Directive (SPAs), the Bern Convention Emerald Network, the BirdLife International's Important Bird Areas)

Total number

>>> 23

Please rate the effectiveness of the national protection designation

Moderate

Internationally important protected sites with a management plan in place which is being implemented

Number of sites

>>> 18

Please rate the effectiveness of the management measures

Moderate

DESIGNATION GAP FILLING

Yes

Please provide full reference or a web link, as well as details concerning the process and the status of this strategy / plan

>>> Updated Action Plan for Wetlands for period 2022 – 2024 for implementation of the Management Plan for Wetlands of Slovakia until 2024 was adopted by the Government in 2022 and it includes measures and activities to fill gaps in designation and/or management of important sites.

links: <https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/dohovory/ramsar/program-starostlivosti-mokrade-2024.pdf>; https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/dohovory/ramsar/04_ap-navrh_2022-2024_fin_clean.pdf

Identification, delineation and designation of sites for completion of the Natura 2000 network was included in the Action Plan for implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.

Relevant activities are included in the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 – 2027.

Has it been implemented?

Yes, being implemented

Please provide details, including when it is expected to be concluded

>>> Filling gaps in designation and/or management of sites is a continuing process.

MANAGEMENT GAP FILING

Yes

Please provide full reference or a web link, as well as details concerning the process and the status of this strategy / plan

>>> Action Plan for implementation of the National Biodiversity Strategy to 2020.

Relevant activities are included in the Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 – 2027.

Has it been implemented?

Yes, being implemented

46. Is the network of nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds integrated into your country's water- and land-use policies and planning and decision-making processes? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.4)

Yes, fully

Please provide details

>>> Protected areas, including sites of Natura 2000 network and Ramsar Sites, are integrated in the national Water Management Policy of the Slovak Republic and Management Plans of the Danube River Basin and of the Vistula River basin. These are integrated in land-use policies and planning (including land-use plans on all levels, documents of the Territorial System of Ecological Stability) and decision-making processes.

47. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on the management of key sites for migratory waterbirds?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What guidance has been used instead?

>>> General national guidelines for management of protected areas have been used; the management guidelines were revised in 2020 according to the updated legislation (amended Decree No. 24/2003 to the Act on nature and landscape protection) and international obligations.

48. Has the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool for the AEWA area been accessed and used in your country? (Resolution 7.9)

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Please give examples of how you have used the CSN Tool

>>> Critical Site Network was identified in Slovakia and covers important sites.

49. Has your country identified priority measures required to maintain or increase the extent and quality of waterbird habitats in the wider environment? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 4.3(a))

Yes

Please provide details, alternatively attach a file or a link to a resource presenting the outcomes of the prioritisation

>>> Prioritised Action Framework (PAF) for Natura 2000 in Slovakia pursuant to Article 8 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (the Habitats Directive) for the Multiannual Financial Framework period 2021 – 2027 identified priority measures.

50. Following MOP7, has your country been involved in the establishment of innovative, international, multi-stakeholder partnerships to guide the development and implementation of habitat management, creation and restoration projects in the wider environment? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 4.4(a))

Yes

Please provide details on each partnership arrangement your country has been involved in (add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials)

>>> The State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and relevant NGOs has been involved in preparation and implementation of international projects within LIFE programme, EU Interreg programmes (Danube Transnational Programme, Central Europe), EU Strategy for the Danube Region (EUSDR) and international networks (DANUBEPARKS, Carpathian Network of Protected Areas CNPA, Carpathian Wetland Initiative, Danube WILDIsland Ramsar Regional Initiative), e.g. Bridging the Danube Protected Areas towards a Danube Habitat Corridor, Danube Wild Islands

Please indicate which other countries have been involved in each of the partnership arrangements
>>> Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Serbia

Have a specific project or projects been established under the partnership arrangement(s) for the implementation of habitat management, creation and restoration in the wider environment?

Yes

Please provide description and details on each project

For each project separately, please provide an account of what surface (in hectares) of what habitat type has been (1) placed under improved management, (2) restored and/or (3) created.

>>> Bridging the Danube Protected Areas towards a Danube Habitat Corridor - DANUBEparksCONNECTED (Danube Transnational Programme, 2017-2019);

Supporting Danube Region's ecological Connectivity by linking Natura 2000 areas along the Green Belt - DaRe to Connect (Danube Transnational Programme, 2018-2021);

Building management capacities of Carpathian protected areas for the integration and harmonization of biodiversity protection and socio-economic development - Centralparks (Programme Central Europe, 2019 - 2022);

Danube Wild Island Habitat Corridor (LIFE, 2021 - 2027);

Dynamic LIFE Lines Danube (LIFE, 2019 - 2026);

Restoration and Management of Danube Floodplain Forests (LIFE, 2015 - 2024);

Pressures and Responses

6. Management of Human Activities

6.1. Hunting

51. Does the legislation of your country implement the principle of sustainable use of waterbirds, as envisaged in the AEWA Action Plan, taking into account the full geographical range of the waterbird populations concerned and their life history characteristics? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.2)

Yes

Please provide details on how this is achieved and reference to the relevant legislation

>>> The Act No. 274/2009 on hunting (as amended) includes § 30 on Hunting planning, which includes

- a) concept of hunting development in the Slovak Republic,
- b) concept of game management in hunting regions and hunting sites,
- c) development (forward looking) plan of hunting management in the hunting district for the period of ten years,
- d) annual plans of hunting management in the hunting district.

Hunting plans must ensure sustainable management and use of the game, protection and preservation of genetic resources and biodiversity conservation. These must be set up so as to respect nature and landscape protection needs, etc.

The Concept of hunting development in the Slovak Republic is provided by the Ministry of Agriculture in cooperation with the Hunting Chamber and is approved by the Slovak Government.

52. Has your country phased out the use of lead shot for hunting in wetlands? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.4; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.2(d))

Fully

When was lead shot use in wetlands banned?

>>> Using of lead shot in wetlands is banned since 1 January 2015.

The European Commission adopted new restriction for use of lead in gunshot for hunting and sport shooting in or around wetlands under the regulation on Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) in January 2021 (Commission Regulation (EU) 2021/57 of 25 January 2021 amending Annex XVII to Regulation (EC) No. 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) as regards lead in gunshot in or around wetlands). It is applied in all EU countries from 15 February 2023.

What legislation is in place?

>>> Prohibited methods and means of capture and killing of protected animals are stated in § of the Regulation of the Ministry of Environment of the Slovak Republic No. 170/2021 to the Act on nature and landscape protection (as amended). According to it, using of lead ammunition during hunt of waterfowl in wetlands is prohibited. Consequently, the use of lead shots is banned in the hunting law (Act No. 274/2009, § 65, par. 36).

Who enforces this legislation?

>>> The legislation is enforced by the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development and their regional (district) authorities.

Has assessment of compliance with the legislation been undertaken?

No

If appropriate, please explain the reasons for not doing this.

>>> Generally the national legislation is harmonized with EU legal provisions which include most of AEWA obligations. Directive 2009/147/EC on the conservation of wild birds (Birds Directive) implements in EU law the commitments set out in the AEWA.

Provisions of AEWA are transposed to the relevant national legislation (mainly in the field of nature protection and hunting). This evaluation of compliance is due procedure before signing/accession to any international legal instrument at the national level. In the case of AEWA the signature was subject to the approval of the Government of the Slovak Republic as well as the National Council of the Slovak Republic and ratification by the President.

In addition, national law was subject to the deep evaluation before as well as after the accession to the EU.

Has measurement of impact of the legislation been undertaken i.e. where there was a problem of lead poisoning in waterbirds, has this been reduced?

No

If appropriate, please explain the reasons for not doing this.

>>> No special measurement of impact of the legislation is a part of regular monitoring.

53. Are there measures in your country to reduce/eliminate illegal taking? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.6; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.2(e))

Yes

How would you rate the effectiveness of the measures?

Moderate

Please provide details and reasons for the lower level of effectiveness.

>>> Nature conservation and hunting guards and specialized police departments exist, but in not sufficient numbers. Special environmental crime departments exist in the police and the Ministry of Interior.

54. Is legally binding proficiency testing for hunters, including amongst other things bird identification, in place in your country? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.8; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.2)

Yes

Please provide details and reference to the relevant legislation

>>> All details and standards are included in the Act No. 274/2009 on hunting (as amended) and the Decree of the Ministry of Agriculture No. 344/2009 by which the Act is implemented (as amended) and knowledge on hunting zoology and game biology and on relevant legislation is tested.

55. Are best practice codes and standards for hunting in place in your country in support of enforcement of hunting laws and regulations? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.1.7; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.3)

Yes

What do these cover?

Club Affiliation

Emergency closure of hunting in cases of exceptionally unfavourable or endangering conditions

Other (please specify)

>>> Game management plans

Please provide details on each item selected above

>>> Hunters are organized in hunting organisation and Hunting Chamber;

Emergency closure - no entry to the hunting district or quiet zone can be declared by the municipality on request of user of hunting district and under recommendation of the district hunting authority. The user of the hunting district is obliged to take measures for protection of game species in emergency situations.

Please rate the degree of application of these best practice codes and standards:

High (almost always applied)

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of application

>>> Hunting legislation has detailed provisions which are obligatory for all users of the hunting districts.

Please rate the effectiveness of these best practice codes and standards in supporting enforcement of hunting laws and regulations:

High (very effective in supporting enforcement of hunting laws and regulations)

Please provide details and reasons for the high degree of effectiveness

>>> Hunting legislation has detailed provisions which are obligatory for all users of the hunting districts.

56. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on sustainable harvest of migratory birds?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Sustainable harvest of water birds is applied according to national legislation, regulations and standards which are in line with AEWA Guidelines and other international principles, guidelines and standards (especially EU regulations).

6.2. Ecotourism

57. Is wetland- and waterbird-related ecotourism integrated into your country's national tourism development strategies or other relevant national strategies? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.2.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 2.5(c))

Yes

Please describe and provide details

>>> Strategy of development of sustainable tourism to 2030 was developed by the Ministry of Transport and Construction of the Slovak Republic. Handbook of the Ministry of Transport and Construction on use of wetland sites for sustainable forms of tourism; Ramsar Site destination management was developed in 2020. https://www.minzp.sk/files/sekcia-ochranyprirodyakrajiny/dohovory/ramsar/manual_mokrade.pdf. Regional strategies have been developed on the level of self-governing regions and ecotourism is included.

58. Are there existing ecotourism initiatives in your country specifically based on migratory waterbirds and their habitats? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.5)

Yes

Please describe how many initiatives are in place and provide details for each of them (add links to relevant online resources or attach other available materials)

>>> Activities (guided tours, birdwatching, excursions) of the Slovak Ornithological Society / BirdLife Slovakia; private initiatives.

Were any of the initiatives described above launched after 2018?

Yes

Please rank the degree to which these initiatives are designed to deliver both conservation and community benefits:

Medium

Please provide details

>>> Community benefits are only partly included in the aims of these initiatives. New Strategy for local sustainable tourism development based on natural and cultural heritage of the Carpathians was developed.

Please rank the degree to which these dual benefits are being delivered in practice:

Medium

Please provide details and the reasons for successful delivery and barriers to fuller delivery

>>> Not sufficient experience in this field.

Do you consider that any of these initiatives can serve as a strong model or an example for developing future ecotourism initiatives that beneficial for both waterbirds and local communities?

No

Field for additional information (optional)

>>> Not sufficiently developed.

6.3. Other human activities

59. Have restrictions on use of lead fishing weights been introduced in your country? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.12). When answering this question please also consider question 80 in chapter 7 - Research and monitoring.

No

If appropriate, please provide further details.

>>> The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) brings forward a proposal for EU-wide restrictions on the use of lead in fishing. At the request of the European Commission, ECHA has assessed the health and environmental risks posed by the use of lead used in fishing sinkers and lures. ECHA's proposal concerning of lead sold and used in fishing is the following:- ban on the sale and use of lead sinkers and lures (with transition periods depending on weight: ≤ 50 g three years; > 50 g five years) - immediate ban on the use of lead sinkers when the sinker is deliberately dropped to water (lead drop off techniques).

The European Commission together with the 27 EU Member states will take the decision on the restriction and its conditions - based on ECHA's proposal and the committees' opinion.

60. Does your country have legislation in place, which provides for Strategic Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Assessment (SEA/EIA) of activities potentially negatively affecting natural habitats or wildlife? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.1; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.5)

Yes and being implemented

Does this legislation apply to the entire country or only to particular states/provinces thereof?

Entire country

Please provide details

>>> The Slovak Republic as a member of EU carries out Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) of activities potentially affecting natural habitats, protected sites or areas important for species (Act No. 24/2006 on Environmental Impact Assessment, as amended).

Do the SEA/EIA processes consider waterbirds and habitats on which they depend?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Act No. 24/2006 (as amended) on the environmental impact assessment, which implements relevant Directives of EU, covers waterbirds and their habitats.

Do the SEA/EIA processes include cumulative impact assessment?

Yes

Do the SEA/EIA processes include public participation?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The Act on EIA was amended several times and it enables public participation.

61. Are there any other legal and/or administrative measures in your country to avoid, mitigate and compensate for adverse impacts of development activities on the sites of national and international importance for migratory birds? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 3.5)

Yes

Please describe each measure and provide details for each of them

>>> Legal measures: Act No. 543/2002 (as amended) on nature and landscape protection; Decree 170/2021 (as amended) to the Act on nature and landscape protection.

Please rank the effectiveness of these measures:

Medium

62. In the last three years, has your country used SEA/EIA for all relevant projects, including energy sector projects such as renewable energy developments and power lines installation, to assess the impact of proposed projects on migratory waterbird species listed on Table 1 and/or habitats/sites on which they depend? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.1, Resolution 5.11 and Resolution 5.16; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.5(b))

Yes, all proposed projects

Where an SEA/EIA has identified a likelihood of significant negative impacts on migratory waterbirds, have steps been taken to avoid these impacts, including avoidance of protected areas and other sites of importance for migratory waterbirds?

Yes

63. Do you maintain a record of the cases of adverse impacts of development activities and other pressures on sites of national and international importance for migratory waterbirds in your country? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 3.5(a))

No

64. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on how to avoid, minimize or mitigate impact of infrastructural developments and related disturbance affecting waterbirds?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl** button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

Please explain the reasons. What other guidance has been used instead?

>>> General Guidelines for Environment Impact Assessment in the Slovak Republic (2006), which include principles of AEWA Guidelines and other international standards, are used.

65. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.11 on Power Lines and Migratory Waterbirds.

65.1. Are relevant stakeholders, including government agencies, scientific bodies, nongovernmental organisations and the energy sector, being regularly consulted in order to monitor jointly the impacts of power lines on waterbirds and to agree on a common policy of action?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> In cooperation with NGO Raptor Protection of Slovakia several projects have been implemented with both public awareness activities and practical measures for monitoring the most problematic sections of power lines. Insulation of poles, marking of electric lines to be visible, as well as construction of artificial nest boxes for concerned birds were made. All activities are coordinated with the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC SR). Energy distribution companies in Slovakia support activities on monitoring and surveys of birds affected by power lines. They are voluntary partners in different projects (mainly LIFE projects) where they together with public authorities (SNC SR) and NGOs cooperate. Organizations are concerned with the problem of electricity pylons (in terms of the collisions with birds). Permanently (once per year), the energy distribution companies organize meetings (workshops), where the collected data and experiences are discussed. LIFE Nature project LIFE 13 NAT/SK001272 "Energy in the landscape - power lines and conservation of priority bird species in Natura 2000 sites" was implemented (2014-2019) jointly by NGO (Raptor Protection of Slovakia), energy companies, the State Nature Conservancy and the University of Veterinary Medicine and Pharmacy in Košice, mostly in wetland areas. One of the outcomes of the project was Handbook on bird protection on overhead powerlines in Slovakia which includes guidance for cooperation with stakeholders.

http://www.sopsr.sk/news/file/LIFE%20Energia_Odborna%20prirucka.pdf

Project LIFE Danube Free Sky - International bird protection along the Danube River (2020 - 2026) includes application of relevant measures in 7 participating countries, including Slovakia, and focuses on some waterbirds and raptors. The stakeholders include private and business sector, energy companies, nature conservation bodies, municipalities and others.

65.2. Has a baseline of waterbird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements (including those between breeding, resting and feeding areas) been established as early as possible in the planning of any power line project, over a period of at least five years, and with particular emphasis on those species known to be vulnerable to electrocution or collision?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Collection of data on waterbird distribution, population sizes, migrations and movements is a part of the tasks of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic, which is commenting all plans for power lines and proposes measures, in cooperation with relevant NGOs.

65.3 If such studies, as described in the question above, have identified any risks, has every effort been made to ensure these are avoided?

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> The measures are enforced by branches/regional administrations of the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic.

65.4. Have the location, route and direction of new power lines been designated on the basis of national zoning maps?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Development (reconstruction) of the electric lines using the underground installation is required, but in practice it is not feasible (being very expensive). Therefore this approach is not realistic neither in large scale areas (SPAs cover over 25 % of the territory of Slovakia) nor in other protected areas in wetlands (where it is too complicated to install underground lines).

65.5. Has, wherever possible, the construction of power lines along major migration flyways and in habitats of conservation importance* been avoided, where such construction is likely to have significant effects on waterbirds?

* such as Special Protection Areas under the EU Birds Directive, Important Bird Areas, protected areas, Ramsar sites, the West/Central Asian Site Network for Siberian Crane and other waterbirds and other critical sites as identified by the Critical Site Network (CSN) Tool for the African-Eurasian region.

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> The provision is included in the Act No. 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection (§ 4.3) as obligation. Construction of power lines is commented and consulted with the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and habitats of conservation importance are avoided.

65.6. Are bird-safe designs in the construction of new power infrastructure, including measures designed to reduce electrocution and collisions being used in your country?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The provision is included in the Act No. 543/2002 on nature and landscape protection (§ 4.3) as obligation. New triangle consoles have been installed. Installations of tools for better visibility of power lines have been made - aerial marked ball for power lines - red and white colours, FireFly - Bird Flapper. The most appropriate solution is using so-called triple cable in which all three conductors are within one cable that is better visible and does not present so dangerous barrier like three parallel conductors. All the new electric poles must be constructed towards minimizing negative effects on birds. Also within existing electric poles in problematic sections the technical measures are undertaken. The most appropriate model to reduce electrocution should be used by all 3 electricity companies in the country after the agreement with the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and NGOs. The SNC SR requests realization of technical measures for preventing bird killing on the power lines: Operative installation of protectors in critical sections; Installation of artificial breeding stands and protectors on power lines - poles; Replacement of whole consoles. Relevant guidance is provided in the Handbook on bird protection on overhead powerlines in Slovakia http://www.sopsr.sk/news/file/LIFE%20Energia_Odborna%20prirucka.pdf

65.7. Have those sections of existing power lines that are causing relatively high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision been identified?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Many problematic power lines are identified by the State Nature Conservancy staff members in cooperation with NGOs and relevant energy providing companies on regular basis and in projects. Priority areas are Natura 2000 sites - Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), Special Protection Areas (SPA), and Ramsar sites. However there are hundreds of km of canals and other important wintering sites of waterbirds out of SPAs and many gaps in knowledge still remain.

65.8. Where sections of existing power lines have been identified to cause relatively high levels of waterbird injury and/or mortality due to electrocution and/or collision, have they been modified as a matter of priority?

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> The priority sections of power lines for modification are enforced by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic and consulted with environment authorities and electricity companies.

65.9. Is there in your country regular monitoring and evaluation of the impact of power lines on waterbird populations at the national scale?

Yes

Please provide details

>>> Systematic collection of data on collisions and killing is undertaken by the State Nature Conservancy of the Slovak Republic (SNC SR) using regular on the spot personal checks of the electricity line zones. The SNC SR has realized monitoring and documentation. It means, there exists "step by step" procedure, how the listing and evidence of a power-pylon has to be done and how possible occurrence of injured/dead bird is documented (GPS coordinates, photo, type of pylon, type of insulator, etc.). These activities are for many years included in the annual work plan of the institution. They consist of identification of the most dangerous facilities (both constructions and power lines) through systematic and ad hoc monitoring of killed/hurt birds, compilation and data processing, supervision on practical application of decisions of nature protection

authorities and of improvement of identified problematic facilities. Similar activities have been done by NGOs.

65.10. Is there in your country regular monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of mitigation measures put in place to minimise the impact of power lines on waterbird populations?

Yes

Please provide details.

>>> The monitoring is focused on selected project sites.

65.11. Have the measures contained in Resolution 5.11. been included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation?

Yes

66. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on how to avoid or mitigate impact of electricity power grids on migratory birds in the African-Eurasian region?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> General Guidelines for Environment Impact Assessment in the Slovak Republic (2006), which include principles of AEWA Guidelines and other international standards, are used.

67. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.16 on Renewable Energy and Migratory Waterbirds.

67.1. Has a national sensitivity and zoning mapping to avoid overlap of renewable energy developments with areas of importance for migratory waterbirds been developed in your country?

Being developed

67.2. Have any international environmental guidelines, recommendations and criteria been followed in your country for impact assessment of renewable energy developments and the utilization of renewable energy sources?

Yes

67.3. Is post-construction monitoring being undertaken of the renewable energy installations and associated infrastructure in your country?

Yes

Has adverse effect on migratory waterbirds and their habitats been identified?

Yes

Are mitigation measures being implemented?

Yes

67.4. Where damage cannot be avoided or mitigated, has compensation for damages to biodiversity been provided?

Yes

Operate wind farms in ways that minimise bird mortality, for example by introducing shortterm shutdowns during peak migration and minimising lighting in wind farms.

Not applicable

Dismantling of wind turbines in existing installations, should waterbird mortality have an effect on the population status of a species and other mitigation measures have proved insufficient.

Not applicable

Focusing research efforts on alleviating the negative effects on waterbirds from wind farms, such as the mapping of the main migration corridors and migration crossings for waterbirds also allowing the optimising of wind farm layouts.

Not applicable

67.6. Have any specific measures been put in place to assess, identify and reduce potential negative impacts of biofuel production on migratory waterbirds and their habitats?

Not applicable

67.7. Have the measures contained in Resolution 5.16. been included in your country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans and relevant legislation?

Yes

68. Has your country used the following AEWA Conservation Guidelines - Renewable Energy Technologies and Migratory Species: Guidelines for Sustainable Deployment (Resolution 6.11)?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

Please provide details

>>> General Guidelines for Environment Impact Assessment in the Slovak Republic (2006), which include principles of AEWA Guidelines and other international standards, are used.

69. Is by-catch of waterbirds in fishing gear taking place in your country? (Resolution 3.8) (Please respond to this question only with respect to species, which are NOT considered seabirds. Seabird by-catch is dealt with in section 4.6 Seabirds)

No Information

70. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 5.12 on Adverse Effects of Agrochemicals on Migratory Waterbirds in Africa (this question is applicable only to Contracting Parties in Africa).

70.1. Have relevant government authorities developed and implemented regulations on the trade and application of agrochemicals known to have a direct or indirect adverse effect on waterbirds?

Yes and being implemented

70.2. Is the use of such agrochemicals regulated around nationally and internationally important sites for migratory waterbirds, particularly in wetlands, also taking into account run-offs from agriculture affecting aquatic ecosystems?

Yes

70.3. Are there any steps undertaken to control or reduce the use of avicides in areas frequented by populations listed in Table 1 of the Agreement?

Yes

70.4. Have education and training activities been implemented for relevant target groups on the proper use of agrochemicals that may have possible adverse effect on waterbirds?

Yes

71. Has any project / initiative been implemented in your country that promotes the integration of cultural and provisioning ecosystem services of migratory waterbirds into policy and decision-making affecting them or their habitats? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 2.6)

No

Pressures and Responses

7. Research and Monitoring

72. Does your country have in place waterbird monitoring schemes for the AEWA species? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Actions 1.4(a) and 1.4(b))

Yes

Covering the breeding period

Guidance: Including pre- and post-breeding sites of concentration, such as moulting sites close to breeding areas

Fully [Guidance: Coverage is full when all waterbird species are covered by monitoring schemes that yield statistically robust estimates of breeding population size and trend at least once in every triennium.]

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected? (Resolution 8.5; ref. document AEWA/MOP 8.27)

Yes

Are demographic data (age and sex classes) also being collected? (Resolution 8.5; ref. document AEWA/MOP 8.27)

Yes

Covering the passage period

Partially

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected?(Resolution 8.5; ref. document AEWA/MOP 8.27)

Yes

Are demographic data (age and sex classes) also being collected? (Resolution 8.5; ref. document AEWA/MOP 8.27)

Yes

Covering the non-breeding/wintering period

Partially

Is information on drivers of population trends also being collected? (Resolution 8.5; ref. document AEWA/MOP 8.27)

Yes

Are demographic data (age and sex classes) also being collected? (Resolution 8.5; ref. document AEWA/MOP 8.27)

Yes

73. Have you undertaken after MOP8 a brief assessment of existing monitoring activities in your country against the priorities set out in document AEWA/MOP 8.27 in order to help identify ways in which they can best implement those recommendations? (Resolution 8.5)

Yes

74. Are data collected through the International Waterbird Census or other relevant monitoring schemes being actively used in your country to inform national-level implementation of AEWA? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 1.5(a))

Yes

75. Has your country supported, technically or financially, through bilateral or multilateral initiatives, other Parties or Range States requiring assistance and support in designing appropriate monitoring schemes, developing their capacity and overall strengthening of waterbird monitoring and population data collection? (Resolutions 5.2 and 8.5)

No

76. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on waterbird monitoring?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the **Ctrl button** on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

77. Has your government provided over the past triennium funds and/or logistical support for the International Waterbird Census and/or other waterbird monitoring scheme at international or national level? (Resolution 6.3)

Yes

Nationally

Yes

78. Has your country donated funds to the African-Eurasian Waterbird Fund in the past triennium (Resolution 6.3, 7.7 and 8.5)?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

No

79. (Applicable to African Contracting Parties only) Were the periods of breeding and of pre-nuptial migration for all AEWA-listed species and their respective populations occurring on the territory of your country identified at national level? (Resolution 7.8)

Partially

80. Has the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds been investigated in your country? (AEWA Action Plan, paragraph 4.3.12). When answering this question please also consider question 59 in chapter 6. Management of human activities.

No

Are there plans to investigate the impact of lead fishing weights on waterbirds in your country?

No

81. Has your country established partnerships and initiated joint research programmes at any level, with clear timeframes for delivery, to fill priority knowledge gaps as identified in document AEWA/MOP 8.30? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.1(a)).

No, but initiative(s)/research programme(s) are being developed

82. In this reporting period, have results of conservation and management interventions, whether successful or unsuccessful, been published in your country so as to inform future conservation and management actions? (Article III.2(k), Resolution 8.7)

No

Pressures and Responses

8. Education and Information

8.1. Communication, Education and Public Awareness

83. Has your country developed and implemented programmes for raising awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and about AEWA specifically? (Strategic Plan 2009-2017, Objective 4, Target 4.3 and AEWA Action Plan, paragraphs 6.1-6.4, Resolution 3.10, Resolution 5.5; Resolution 6.10)

Guidance: Such programmes should consist of a series of established, long-term communication activities, which are guided by clearly defined goals, target audiences and communication channels. A programme does not constitute a single, one-off communication activity, product or event. In other words, an established national programme to raise awareness and understanding on waterbird conservation and about AEWA would ideally be a number of targeted communication activities which are guided by a communication plan and are backed by sufficient human and financial resources.

Yes, being implemented

Does the programme specifically focus on AEWA and the provisions of its Action Plan?

No

84. Has a National AEWA Focal Point for Communication, Education and Public Awareness (CEPA) been designated by your country? (Resolution 5.5; Resolution 6.10)

Yes

Is the National CEPA Focal Point from the government or non-governmental sector?

Government

Has the AEWA CEPA Focal Point begun coordinating national implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy?

Yes

How can the cooperation between the appointed AEWA CEPA Focal Point and the Ramsar CEPA Focal Points be described?

There is very close cooperation

85. Have measures been taken by your country to implement the provisions related to "Education and Information" in the AEWA Action Plan over the last triennium? (AEWA Action Plan, Paragraphs 6.1-6.4)

No

86. Have World Migratory Bird Day (WMBD) activities been carried out in your country during this reporting cycle? (Resolution 5.5)

Yes

87. Has your country provided funding and/or other support, as appropriate (e.g. expertise, network, skills and resources) towards the implementation of the AEWA Communication Strategy and/or towards priority CEPA activities in the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027? Please consider both national and international funding and different types of support provided. (Resolution 6.10)

No

Pressures and Responses

9. Implementation

88. Have you undertaken a national assessment of the resources needed for the delivery of the AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.6.(b))

No

89. Has your country provided resources to address the resource needs as identified in document AEWA/MOP 8.43, for enabling and strengthening the international-level coordination and delivery of the Strategic Plan? (Resolution 8.3)

No

90. Has your country approached non-contracting party range states to encourage them to accede to the Agreement? (Resolution 3.10; AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Target 5.2)

Report only on activities over the past triennium

No

91. Does your country have in place a national coordination mechanism for implementation of AEWA, possibly linking to national coordination mechanisms for other biodiversity Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs)? (Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.3(b))

Guidance: Such mechanism can be a dedicated cross-institutional working group, involving representatives of the civil society and other relevant stakeholders, aimed at planning, coordinating and reporting the implementation of the Agreement in the country. Alternatively, the implementation of AEWA at national level can be coordinated as an extension of larger national coordination mechanisms for other MEAs, such as National Ramsar Committees or CBD NBSAPs coordination.

Yes, but it is not operational

92. Have you undertaken a national assessment of the capacity needs for AEWA implementation? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.3.(e))

No

93.1. Cooperate in launching regional initiatives, particularly in Africa, to address the implementation of capacity priorities, linking to the African Initiative, including scientific collaboration as well as a “younger generations” component, and including provision for actions to be further informed through country-specific needs assessments.

No

93.2. Establish procedures for ensuring continuity of succession and transfer of knowledge and skills, when there are changes in personnel responsible for AEWA national implementation.

Yes

93.3. Hold regional or sub-regional preparatory meetings before each ordinary session of the MOP, in particular for African Range States, and for such meetings to include an enhanced capacity-building component targeting priority needs identified by the Parties concerned.

No

93.4. (For AEWA National Focal Points in the European Union (EU) only)

To cooperate with African National Focal Points, partner organisations and other stakeholders to explore opportunities for incorporating aspects of AEWA implementation capacity support in relevant existing projects and programmes in Africa, including the EU-funded NaturAfrica initiative and the Fonds Français pour l'Environnement Mondial/EU-funded RESSOURCE sub-Saharan Africa project, as well as projects under the auspices of the wider CMS Family, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands and UNEP.

No

94. Has your country concluded, or considered concluding, twinning schemes between sites with other countries, the sites of which share common migratory waterbirds or conservation issues? (Resolution 5.20)

Yes

Please provide details on each twinning arrangement

>>> Slovakia has designated several transborder Ramsar Sites on shared rivers:

Ipeľ/Ipoly Valley with Hungary

Tisa/Tisza River with Hungary

Trilateral Ramsar Site Floodplains of Morava-Dyje-Danube Confluence with Austria and the Czech Republic

95. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation coordinated and engaged with national processes contributing towards the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

No

96. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation coordinated and engaged with national processes contributing towards the relevant Sustainable Development Goals and the assessment of achieving these goals? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

No

97. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation coordinated and engaged with national processes to implementation and assess the delivery of the Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

Yes

98. Are those officers in your country's government responsible for AEWA implementation coordinated and engaged with national processes contributing towards the Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024? (AEWA Strategic Plan 2019-2027, Action 5.4(a))

Yes

Please provide details

>>> The government officers responsible for AEWA implementation are members of the Slovak Ramsar Committee

99. Are the AEWA priorities integrated into your country's National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plan (NBSAP) and/or other similar national implementation mechanisms/processes for other international strategic plans and policies (Resolution 6.3; AEWA Strategic Plan, Targets 5.4 and 5.5)?

99.1 The new generation of NBSAPs related to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (as adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity in December 2022)

No

99.2 The relevant Sustainable Development Goals

No

99.3 The Strategic Plan for Migratory Species 2024-2032

No

99.4 The Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024

Yes

99.5 Other international strategic plans and policies

No

Ramsar Convention Strategic Plan 2016-2024

Yes

102. Has your country donated funds to the AEWA Small Grants Fund over the past triennium? (Resolutions 7.1 and 8.3)

No

103. Has your country donated other funding or provided in-kind support to activities coordinated by the UNEP/AEWA Secretariat?

No

104. Has your country prioritised and allocated a Junior Professional Officer (JPO) to the

**UNEP/AEWA Secretariat for Technical Committee support or for any other area of work?
(Resolutions 7.11, 7.12, 8.11 and 8.12)**

No and has not been prioritised

105. Please report on the implementation of Resolution 6.21 on Resource mobilization for the implementation of AEWA.

105.1 Did your country's government provide in the last triennium financial and/or in-kind resources to support national activities which are intended to achieve the objectives of this Agreement, particularly those in line with the AEWA Strategic Plan including the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa, and in accordance with your national plans, priorities and programmes?

No

105.2 Does your country's government have unpaid dues to the AEWA Trust Fund (annual assessed contributions to the Agreement's budget as approved by each session of the Meeting of the Parties)?

No

105.3 Has your country's government provided funding to support developing countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, as well as countries with economies in transition, to meet their obligations under AEWA, and the implementation of the AEWA Plan of Action for Africa 2019-2027? Under this question please report for support provided outside of formal and established intergovernmental cooperation. For the latter, please refer to the next question 105.4.

No

105.4 Does your country's government participate in any South-South, North-South or triangular cooperation to enhance financial and technical support for the successful implementation of AEWA activities?

No

105.5 Does your country's government use innovative financing mechanisms for implementing the AEWA Strategic Plan such as a (national) Migratory Waterbirds Fund?

No

105.6 Does the implementation of AEWA in your country benefit from synergies between biodiversity-related conventions at national level, amongst others, through information sharing on potential funding opportunities and sharing of financial resources such as the Desertification Fund, Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund, and the Global Environmental Facility?

Yes

Pressures and Responses

10. Climate Change

106. Please outline relevant climate change research, assessments and/or adaptation measures that are relevant to migratory waterbirds and which have been undertaken or planned in your country. (Resolution 5.13)

a. Research and studies of climate change impacts on waterbirds

Planned

b. Assessment of the potential vulnerability to climate change of key habitats used by waterbird species (including those outside protected area networks) (Please note that the question asks about habitats, rather than sites. Question 43 in Section 5, sub-section 5.2 investigates vulnerability of sites to climate change)

Planned

c. Assessment of the potential vulnerability of waterbird species to climate change.

Planned

d. Review of relevant national conservation policies relevant to waterbirds and climate change.

No relevant activities

e. National Action Plan for helping waterbirds adapt to climate change (as a separate implementation process or as part of a larger national framework for biodiversity adaptation to climate change. Please note that Question 44 in Section 5, sub-section 5.2 investigates national measures for increasing resilience of the ecological network for waterbirds to climate change).

Planned

f. Other undertaken or planned relevant activities.

No

107. Has your country used the AEWA Conservation Guidelines on measures needed to help waterbirds to adapt to climate change?

Notice: Before clicking on the above hyperlink, please keep pressing the Ctrl button on your keyboard to open the link in a new tab.

Yes

108. Has your country used the complementary Guidelines on climate change adaptation measures for waterbirds?

Not applicable

Pressures and Responses

11. Avian Influenza

110. Does your country have in place surveillance and rapid testing programmes for HPAI of dead birds so as to inform: any enhancements to monitoring of the species populations (Resolutions 8.2 and 8.7) and site-related management and biosecurity measures as needed (Resolution 8.15)?

No

111. Has your country adapted/changed in the last triennium monitoring and assessment of those species affected by avian influenza, particularly HPAI H5N1 outbreaks, as well as other diseases, as the basis for potentially implementing emergency measures envisaged by paragraph 2.3 of the AEWA Action Plan? (Resolutions 8.2 and 8.7)

Yes

112. Have you established HPAI contingency plans nationally and at sites of significant importance to waterbirds, including coastal seabirds? (Resolution 8.15)

No

12. Confirmation

Confirmation of information verification and approval for submission

Please confirm:

In addition a scanned copy of an official letter from the relevant state institution, approving the report for submission, can be attached.

I declare that the information provided in the Report on the implementation of AEWA for the period 2021-2024 has been verified and the report has been approved for submission by the appropriate state institution in the country.

Date of submission

>>> 13.5.2025